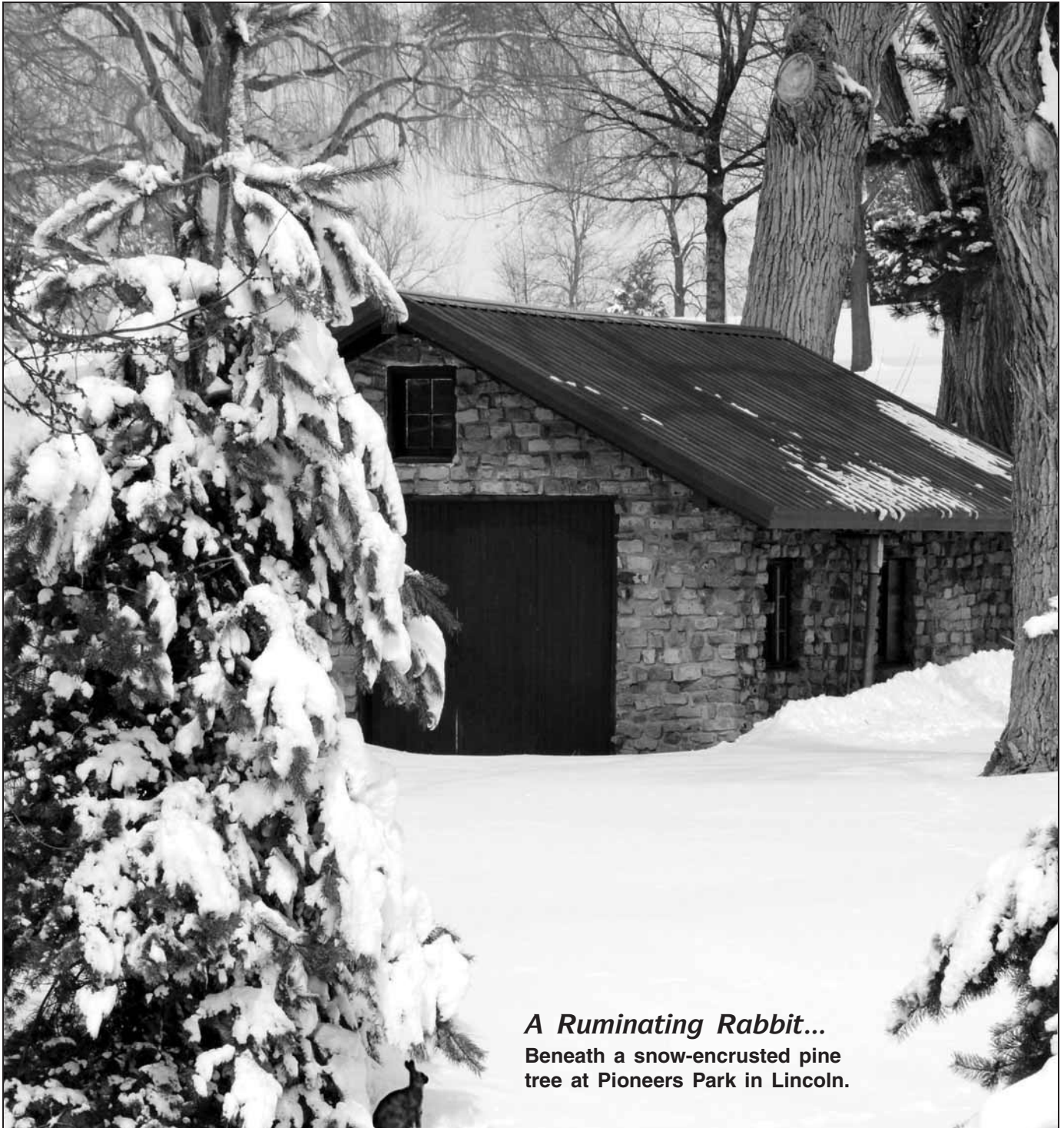


the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

February/March 2009



A Ruminating Rabbit...
Beneath a snow-encrusted pine
tree at Pioneers Park in Lincoln.

Photo by Jay Bailey

the Roadrunner

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 Communication Division
 1500 Highway 2
 PO Box 94759
 Lincoln NE 68509-4759
 (402)479-4512
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 District 7Kurt Vosburg
 District 8.....Mark Kovar

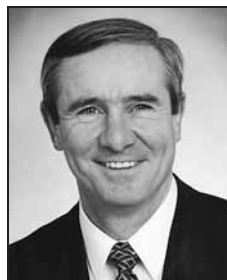
EditorLinda M. Wilson
 Type & LayoutDiane German
 Printing.....D.A.S.

The information in this newsletter is contributed
 by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



From the Director

We're In This Together



John L. Craig

".... Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

I do not recall a time when there have been as many issues competing for attention. In this veritable sea of issues, what is important? My answer is, "to accomplish the mission." That mission (paraphrased) says we provide a safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally compatible transportation system for the movement of people and goods. At the same time, it is all about people. Therefore, we must maintain the very best relationships possible, internal and external, to the department. This is especially true in these tough economic times.

The department and our partners have much to be proud of. The department is performing at the highest level on record with the smallest workforce in 50 years.

I solicit your renewed efforts, support and passion in doing what is *important*—accomplishing our mission while maintaining personal relationships.

The future will be what we make it and I believe, in spite of our many challenges, it is going to be great! Stay safe. ♦

Recommended Reading

*More good books as
 recommended by Director John Craig*



I never intended to become "the book reviewer" and, as such, I welcome other submissions to "Recommended Reading" on pertinent subjects. Please submit those to Mary Jo Oie in the Communication Division.

"Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (And What It Says About Us)"

by Tom Vanderbilt, 2008, 402 pages.

A great read for anyone in the roads or traffic business. The author discusses (at times at some agonizing length) the various aspects of traffic, especially human behavior. He attributes traffic as being a reflection of human behavior and to the anonymity we assume when we enter our vehicles. So, while human behavior is non-linear, how can it be addressed by linear thinking? Filled with interesting facts that include "traffic archeology" on such subjects as Pompeii, fatalities, crashes, merging, the psychology of driving, why dangerous roads are safer, etc. It would seem that although the types of vehicles have changed over the past two thousand years, very little else has. In fact, crashes and fatalities in some cities (e.g., London and New York) may currently be the least in over one hundred years or before motorized traffic. A *must* read.

See **Reading** on page 9

Mueting Named District 1 Construction Engineer

Curt Mueting is the new District 1 Construction Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 1 includes Butler, Cass, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Otoe, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Saunders and Seward counties. Mueting, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Mark Traynowicz, who was recently named the new Bridge Engineer.

For 14 years, Mueting has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as the Assistant District Construction Engineer in District 1 for the past three years. Born and raised in Denison, Iowa, Mueting graduated from Denison High School in 1984, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering Technology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1992.



Curt Mueting

After graduation, Mueting worked as foreman for a bridge contractor, building state and county bridges from 1992 to 1994. He began his career at NDOR in 1994, working as an Engineering Associate I at District 3 in Norfolk.

The position was reclassified as Highway Construction Technician II in 1995. From 1996 to 2005, Mueting served in several positions, including Engineer I, Project Manager and Engineer III, before being promoted to Assistant District Construction Engineer in 2005 and transferred to the District 1 Construction Office in Lincoln.

Over his tenure at NDOR, Mueting said he most enjoys the interaction with department employees and contractors and developing relationships that are needed to successfully

construct all projects. In discussing goals he would like to achieve, Mueting said he would like to continue with the development of the construction staff to help them achieve all that they want and continue creating an atmosphere in District 1 that makes it more than just a place to come to work.

Mueting said his management approach is pretty simple: He lets people do their work. "I believe that if you give people the proper training, the tools they need and the authority to do their job, they will do it at a very high level. I believe this style allows people to develop the most and fulfill the mission of NDOR."

Mueting and his wife, Marcia, have been married 16 years. They have a 12-year-old daughter, Megan, and a 9-year-old son, Michael. In his spare time, Curt enjoys camping, boating, water skiing, hunting, playing golf and woodworking projects. ♦

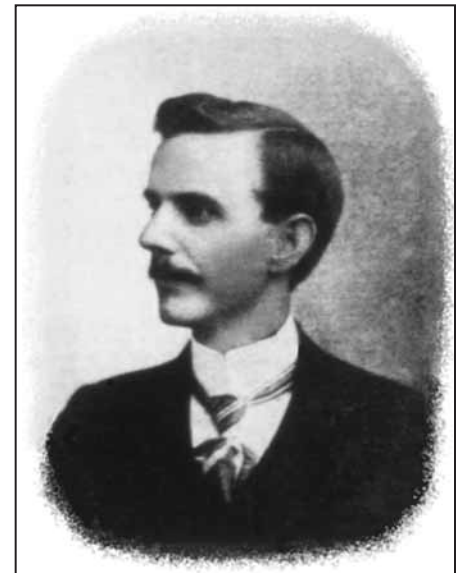
Mystery of Clarence B. Channel Unraveled

While walking past the director's office on the second floor of the central headquarters building, those with a keen eye may have noticed an empty frame on the wall amidst photos of past NDOR directors. The brief note inside the frame included the name, Clarence B. Channel (State Engineer, 1900-1901), and stated that his photo was "unavailable." The rest was left to the imagination. Just who was Mr. Channel, the fourth person to serve at the helm of NDOR, then known as the State Board of Irrigation, and what did he look like?

That mystery has been solved, thanks to extensive behind-the-scenes sleuthing by Arvid Olson, photographer in NDOR's Communication Division. While doing genealogical research about the Channel family on the Internet, Olson found information that referred him to the Kearney Hub newspaper and then to an article in

the May 13, 1900 issue of the Omaha World-Herald. There he found on page 24 a picture of "C. B. Channel, State Engineer, Kearney, Neb." – the missing face on NDOR's wall of State Engineers/Directors. Olson started with a half-tone photo on microfilm, about 1/24th the size of a postage stamp. He scanned and enlarged it, then worked painstakingly to enhance and remove any scratches so the photo could be framed and take its rightful place among the second floor gallery of photos.

Olson also gleaned a wealth of information about Mr. Channel that he used to construct a timeline of events. Some of the highlights: Clarence Benton Channel was born on April 30, 1870, in New Rumsley, Ohio, to Elizabeth and Thomas Channel. He had two brothers and a sister. In 1887, Mr. Channel's family moved from Ohio to the Kearney, Nebraska area.



Clarence B. Channel

In 1892, he was appointed by the City Council as the City Engineer of Kearney. In 1894, he was elected the new County Surveyor and in 1895, he

See **Channel** on page 9

Improved Hershey Interchange Welcomed

The Hershey Interchange on Link L56C over Interstate 80 was rebuilt during the 2008 construction season. Work began March 17, 2008, and minor work remains to be completed this coming spring, according to Nebraska Department of Roads' Project Manager Rich Morrell.

Work was done in two phases. Phase one involved grading and placement of the temporary surfacing for relocation of traffic. The prime contractor, Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, then removed and replaced the existing concrete and the west half of the existing bridge. During phase two, traffic was switched to the newly constructed west half of the project. Temporary surfacing and remaining surfacing was removed and replaced. The east half of the old bridge was also removed and replaced.

Additional right-of-way had previously been purchased for the new interchange. However, as the department changed its design standards, it allowed the roadway to be constructed within existing right-of-way. The department is offering the original owners the opportunity to repurchase this property.

Morrell noted that the northwest corner of the bridge needed to be patched just prior to construction beginning on the new bridge. During work an earth scraper overturned. "It just points out the day-to-day dangers that are present on any construction project and the need to always be aware of our surroundings," Morrell said.

Bridge demolition and placement of the girders was done at night so that I-80 could be closed and traffic routed across the ramps. "There were no major problems with traffic," Morrell noted. "The public seemed to be very patient." He also noted that the businesses located at the interchange were very understanding of the construction process.

Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, had the \$3,579,660 contract for grading, culverts, concrete paving, a new bridge, guardrail work and lighting. David Neill was the project superintendent for Paulsen. Subcontractors included A.M. Cohron, of Atlantic, Iowa, for bridge work; Van Kirk Sand & Gravel, of Sutton, Nebr., for grading and culverts; Dustrol Inc., of Lincoln, for milling; Nitro Construction, Inc., of Grand Island, for pavement removal; Katon Electric, Inc., of Holdrege, for electrical work; Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc., of Lincoln, for guardrail work; B.A.B., Inc., of Adams, for seeding; and All Roads Barricades, Inc., of Lincoln, for traffic control.

Design of the interchange was done by HWS Consulting Group, of Omaha. NDOR Assistant Roadway Design Engineer Don Turek and his staff oversaw the general design. Members of Morrell's construction crew included Jason Nichols and Doug Gertsch, Construction Tech III; Darrell O'Neal and Justin Willard, Construction Tech II. The appraiser on this project was Greg Heinzmann and the review appraiser was Bob Fischer. Leslie Muehlich was the ROW Agent assigned to acquire the property for the project. ♦



Photo by Rich Morrell, District 6
The new L56C bridge over I-80 at Hershey was completed in 2008.

We Get Mail...

December 19, 2008

E-mail sent to:

Operations' Steve Olson and Web Officer Barb Biffle

I love the Nebraska Department of Roads camera site. I wish there were more cameras! And I wish more states had them, had 511... like the Nebraska site.

I live and work in Ainsworth for a car dealer. We buy cars from various locations and they have come to rely on this site when sending drivers out. Yesterday we had a driver entering snowy (other state) on the way home and I was disappointed with (their) site.

I access the map and the cameras anytime the weather gets bad. I am addicted to Weather-underground and NDOR 511 site! I always check to see what's happening. I have relatives in various other cities in Nebraska and check their cameras and the map too. I also use the 511 call feature on my cell phone (and at home).

Thanks for a wonderful site! Keep up the good job!

Marcia Shelton

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

Swisher Shows Shooting Skills

When it comes to pistol shooting, Steve Swisher doesn't stray far from the mark. An NDOR employee for the past 30 years, Steve is a Final Reviewer at District 7 in McCook. He has also served in the Nebraska Army National Guard for more than 30 years and has been involved in military competitive marksmanship for approximately 20 years.

During those years, Sgt. 1st Class Swisher has been part of numerous state, regional, national and even international team marksmanship championships. In July, while competing in the National Marksmanship Championship Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, Swisher was the top National Guard pistol shooter of the competition, repeating the "High Guard" honors that he received the previous year. He also placed 10th nationally among the more than 700 military, civilian and law enforcement shooters competing in the pistol championships while taking third place in the .45 caliber pistol matches.

The event at Camp Perry consists of three separate shooting matches with the .22 caliber pistol, the .32 or larger caliber center fire match and the .45 caliber or 9 mm. service pistol match. Scores are then combined from each of the individual matches to determine the overall winners.

After the third match, Swisher realized what he'd accomplished. He had just scored an incredible 2,610 points with 110 bulls-eyes, essentially demolishing his "High Guard" score from last year's matches when he'd scored 2,550 points. According to Swisher, a member of the National Guard's 92nd Troop Command/Training Site Command, there are probably only 10 or 20 shooters in the nation who can shoot that kind of score, with a score of 2,600 considered exceptional.

The President's 100 Match was held on the final day of the competition. Each shooter is given 40 rounds and challenged to shoot two slow fire strings at a distance of 50 yards. Shooters then move to the 25-yard mark to shoot one timed fire and one

rapid fire match. The top 100 scorers earn the "President's 100" tab. Swisher became one of just seven or eight known Nebraska Guardsmen who have earned the right to wear the tab.

In addition to Swisher's awards, the Nebraska team placed second in the Expert Team .22 caliber match, first in the Expert Team Center Fire match, fourth in the .45 caliber match and third in the Expert Team Aggregate match.

National Finals

In October, Swisher represented the Nebraska National Guard competing in the Winston P. Wilson matches at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. These matches are the National Finals for the National Guard competition, with teams from all over the world competing. His team won one pistol match, finished second in one rifle match, third in a combined arms match and seventh in the overall mix. In the individual competition, Swisher finished second overall in the pistol portion, but didn't fare as well in the rifle and machine gun portion of the match. Although Nebraska didn't win the All States Trophy this year, they have won it several times, with Swisher on two of those winning teams.

Swisher said he competes in two to three matches a year, depending on his workload both at NDOR and his military job. Some are combat-style matches, like the Winston P. Wilson, and others are bulls-eye type matches (Camp Perry) focusing on the more precise type of shooting. Occasionally, he shoots in civilian-type matches such as action shooting, much like a police officer would encounter.

"The nice thing about the military matches is the 'new shooter' rule that says your team has to have 50 percent new shooters (a shooter that has not competed on a team at that level). This rule eliminates the same four good old shooters from winning all the time as they have to pass on their skills to the new shooters and groom them to compete well and win."



Steve Swisher

Swisher's awards have been numerous, with over 200 individual and team awards earned at state, national and international-level competitions.

"The ones I am most proud of are the two-time back-to-back high National Guard shooter at Camp Perry and the second place rifle individual award I received in a match held in Germany. I also helped Nebraska win several high state awards at the Winston P. Wilson Championships at Camp Robinson, Arkansas."

Challenges and Rewards

Although it can be challenging to find the time to practice to maintain the skills needed to compete at the top level, Swisher says he has benefited greatly from this experience and the ability to bring the knowledge he has gained from fellow shooters home to help train soldiers to be better marksmen.

"Throughout my military career, I have had a great employer. NDOR has worked with me and made it possible for me to serve our country and help train our younger soldiers to better perform their duties on the battlefield to help ensure they come home safe. Anything I can do to enhance their training I find most rewarding."

Swisher and his wife, Gayla, have two children, Sarah, 22, and David, 20. While spare time is scarce, he occasionally finds time for jet skiing at the lake and riding motocross bikes. ♦

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract

Information from Trans•port SiteManager as of January 13, 2009

Location
Work Description
Prime Contractor
Project Manager
Contract Bid Amount

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Landscaping - LS
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE
Seeding - Seed
Speciality - Spec

District 1

Ulysses Northeast
Br
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$417,560.65

Ulysses Northwest
Br
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$517,641.10

Johnson Southeast
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Walton, Jade (402)421-1717
\$652,702.76

Fillmore/Saline Co. Line East
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489
\$2,118,191.35

Beatrice - Princeton
Spec
Safety Grooving & Grinding, L.P.
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489
\$1,601,778.05

Blue River Br. So. of Fairbury
Br, Gdrl
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489
\$485,666.81

Weeping Water North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$10,894,723.90

Weeping Water Spur
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$423,415.26

Nemaha South
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$1,308,999.92

N-63 Interchange
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850
\$9,165,909.38

Platte River Bridges
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv,
Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Sign, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$45,189,781.90

Mainline EB Bridge Waverly Intchg.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$6,135,087.75

Liberty Spur Bridge
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$104,007.88

Tecumseh East
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Cary, Bill (402)335-4131
\$3,360,615.16

Unadilla East & West
Spec
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$888,590.93

I-180 - 56th St., Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Brothers Constr. Co. &
United Contractors Inc. (JV)
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$48,766,667.84

Lincoln East
Spec
Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$344,271.26

262nd St. Bridge
Gr, MSE, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Hawkins Construction Co.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$2,567,442.85

202nd St. Bridge
Gr, MSE, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Fence
Hawkins Construction Co.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$2,329,976.25

148th St. Bridge, Lincoln
Gr, MSE, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$2,875,439.22

162nd St. Bridge, Lincoln
Gr, MSE, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$2,231,520.32

Greenwood Maintenance Facility
Maint. Facility
Cheever Const. Co.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$1,455,900.00

Hickman Southeast
Gr, ConPav, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$653,705.60

Lincoln West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.
& Affiliates
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$12,430,182.09

Morse Bluff South Bridge
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$892,971.81

Roca North
Spec
Missouri Pvm. Maintenance, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$24,779.00

I-80, Goehner Truck Parking
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$605,573.94

Raymond South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$4,816,393.42

I-80 - Cornhusker Hwy., Lincoln
Spec
Interstate Improvement, Inc.
Volz, Jason (308)345-8490
\$1,211,367.10

District 2

Bennington Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Ruff, Ryan (402)444-6372
\$578,833.62

Fremont East Bypass
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$26,555,563.32

In Fremont
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$392,553.25

Harney St. - 24th St. (EB), Omaha
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$14,628,136.26

20th - 16th St. Viaduct, Omaha
Br
MCC, Llc
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$199,968.42

Hamilton St. Viaduct, Omaha
Br
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$57,178.82

Jct. US-6/US-275
Elec
Commonwealth Electric Co.
of the Midwest
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$112,500.20

108th St. - 120th St., Omaha
LS
Lanoha Nurseries, Inc.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$468,974.00

I-80 - Dewey St., Omaha
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$4,621,002.26

Fort St. South, Omaha
Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$2,716,030.66

N-50 to Bellevue
Spec
Chester Bross Construction Co./
C.B. Equipment, Inc.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$1,271,372.66

L St. Viaduct near 36th St.
Br
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$958,486.58

Plattsmouth - Omaha
Spec
Safety Grooving & Grinding, L.P.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$1,090,538.22

Riverview Bridge, Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Br
Hawkins Construction Co.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$1,588,542.33

Plattsmouth North Viaducts
Brs
Hawkins Construction Co.
Fox, Mike (402)595-2534
\$3,083,812.28

Hooper East & West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$22,401,622.91

North Bend North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$2,434,060.84

CNW/N-36 Viaduct, Omaha
Br, Gdrl
MCC, Llc
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$467,707.07

N-36 North
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$1,086,110.06

Melia Hill Maintenance Facility
Maint. Facility
Upland Construction Co
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534
\$2,450,000.00

So. Omaha Bridge, Main Br. Truss
Br
Jensen Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$37,574,397.00

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Br. Approach
Br, Elec
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$13,204,975.78

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Grading
Gr, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec, Bit
K & L Landscape
& Construction, Inc.
Tsvid, Aleksandra (402)595-2534
\$3,499,546.34

So. Omaha Br., Iowa Hwy. Paving
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec
MFT Construction Inc.
Tsvid, Aleksandra (402)595-2534
\$2,629,468.91

So. Omaha Br., Nebr -
13th & Mo. Ave.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, LS, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchev, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$5,262,446.49

So. Omaha Br., Nebr. Br. Approach
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Hinchev, Maurice (402)595-2534
\$12,773,897.12

District 3

Willow Creek Recreation Rd.
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Vanroekel, Kirk (402)483-5466
\$6,606,703.68

Waterbury Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Dixon Construction Co.
Mead, Terry (402)371-6416
\$476,373.40

Belden South
Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$1,270,833.28

Emerson - No. of Wakefield
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$2,045,838.44

In Wayne
Spec
Sealcoat Services, Inc.
dba SCS Construction Co.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$91,082.48

Tekamah East
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$686,848.11

Monowi - Verdel
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$2,257,733.09

Humphrey Spur South
Spec
Missouri Pvm. Maintenance, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$120,164.60

Humphrey North & South
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$1,898,877.52

Columbus Viaduct
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Culv, Br, Elec
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$12,941,875.76

Albion Equipment Storage Facility
Equipment Storage Facility
J.H. Hespe Company, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$286,643.00

Lindsay South
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$4,232,071.59

Yankton Bridge
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Fence, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Jensen Construction Co.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$23,903,498.78

Norfolk West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$20,299,017.48

Neligh - N-121
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$6,624,518.65

Elgin - US-20
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Knife River Midwest, LLC
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$6,365,861.91

Wisner - West Point
Spec
Missouri Pvm. Maintenance, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$141,000.00

Randolph West
Spec
Knish Corporation
Whitten, Bill (402)370-3474
\$361,166.65

District 4

Milligan Northwest
Gr, Culv, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Vanroekel, Kirk (402)483-5466
\$278,453.18

Oak Northwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Walton, Jade (402)421-1717
\$977,145.82

Kearney West
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$5,086,203.99

In Sutton
Elec
Mid-Plains Power Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$94,533.42

Kearney East Bridges
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$706,935.17

Hastings - Hall Co. Line
Spec
Sealcoat Services, Inc.
dba SCS Construction Co.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$114,885.75

Platte River - Phillips
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$5,397,938.95

Cairo - Boelus
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$4,186,132.20

BNSF Viaduct, York
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Elec
Constructors, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$1,261,361.00

In York
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$2,837,477.68

NE/KS Line North
Spec
Interstate Improvement, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$1,699,261.98

Fairmont North
Spec
Sealcoat Services, Inc.
dba SCS Construction Co.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$197,725.41

East Jct. N-92 North
Bit
Knife River Midwest, LLC
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$3,442,781.50

Gresham - Shelby
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
U.S. Asphalt Co.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$3,803,098.45

Waco East Bridge
Br
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$237,675.00

Henderson - Waco
Spec
Interstate Improvement, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$807,561.00

Grand Island - Phillips
Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$882,423.15

Grand Island DOC Addition
DOC Addition
Lacy Construction Co.
Sander, Gary (308)385-6265
\$705,000.00

Aurora - Central City
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$8,584,360.49

Ord - Burwell
Gr, Culv, Seed, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$8,121,354.49

Grant St. - Greenwich St., Gr. Island
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$4,495,070.38

Dist. 4 - Districtwide
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Schmidt, Larry (308)385-6888
\$184,274.00

Kearney/Adams Co. Line East
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Vontz Paving, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$4,004,587.38

In Hastings
Elec
Mid-Plains Power, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$183,611.60

Superior North & South
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$1,354,909.39

District 5

Alliance North (South Half)
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Werner Construction Co.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$3,123,145.03

US-20/Whitney Spur (S23A)
Elec
Dominion Const. Co.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$13,364.92

Alliance North (North Half)
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Werner Construction Co.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$3,382,327.18

Gering Maintenance Facility
Maint. Facility
Heggem Construction, Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)436-6587
\$4,294,341.46

District 5 - Districtwide
Spec
Paul Reed Constr. & Supply, Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)436-6587
\$225,344.46

Sidney EB & WB Rest Area Rehab.
Rest Area Rehab
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Rhamy, Wayne (308)436-6587
\$683,800.00

Bushnell - Kimball
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)436-6587
\$1,792,433.98

I-80 to North of Kimball
Gr, MSE, Culv, Seed, Br
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Johnson, James (308)436-6587
\$12,243,690.00

East Kimball - Potter (EB)
Bit
Werner Construction Co.
Jacobs, Maryanne (308)436-6587
\$2,974,263.00

Automated Gate Closure Proj.-Rural
Elec
Mid-Plains Power Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$184,787.45

District 6

Hershey Interchange
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$3,579,660.12

Ogallala EB & WB Rest Area Rehab.
Rest Area Rehab
Paulsen, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$447,420.00

Thedford South
Gr, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$4,627,371.44

Darr - Overton
Spec
Safety Grooving & Grinding, L.P.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$1,800,668.93

Wellfleet South
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$1,316,727.84

Cozad Interchange
Gr, MSE, ConPav, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$4,595,440.50

Monroe St. to I-80, Cozad
Gr, ConPav, Culv
Paulsen, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$486,731.45

Cozad South
Gr, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$386,734.99

Darr Interchange
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$216,824.00

District 6 - Districtwide
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Lewandowski, Daniel (308)535-8031
\$389,031.50

District 7

Holdrege Maintenance Facility
Bldg # 71406, 71407, 71408
Paulsen, Inc.
Dietz, Mark (308)995-5397
\$2,705,000.00

District 8

Burwell East
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$1,789,007.01

O'Neill Maintenance Facility
Maint. Facility
DWB, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$1,030,718.00

Niobrara River Bridge
Br
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$64,800.00

Elkhorn River & Dry Creek
Bridges SE of O'Neill
Br
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$224,191.79

Johnstown - Ainsworth
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$3,352,016.64

Merriman South Bridge
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Perrett Construction, Ltd.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$4,898,412.25

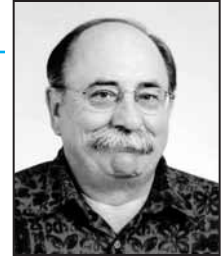
In O'Neill
Gr, ConPav, Elec
Castle Construction, Inc.
Ziska, Dan (402)336-2051
\$2,099,919.62

Districtwide, D-3 & D-8
Spec
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Adkisson, Jason (402)387-2471
\$275,711.14



By Steve Duecker

Highway Environmental Biologist
Planning & Project Development



Salamanders

We recently received a report of Smallmouth Salamanders breeding at one of our wetland mitigation sites near Nemaha along Nebraska Highway 67 in Nemaha County. Smallmouth Salamanders have a very limited occurrence in Nebraska, so this was rewarding news. This salamander is small (4 to 6 inches) and, as the name indicates, has a narrow head with a small mouth. They are generally black with gray lace-like markings. Breeding occurs in the very early spring. Like most salamanders, they eat earthworms and other small invertebrate creatures.

A group of biologists found them while searching for the Eastern Tiger Salamander. It appears that the tiger salamander has all but disappeared from eastern Nebraska. They have not been found in reported locations for quite some time. The tiger salamander is larger (7 to 9 inches) and is black with yellow markings. There is still a strong population of tiger salamanders in western Nebraska, although these are considered a western subspecies.

As it turns out, many of our wetland mitigation/bank sites have excellent habitat for salamanders—shallow water areas that are free of predatory fish that eat larval salamanders. Since salamanders are amphibians, they lay their eggs in the water and eggs hatch into a larval form with gills that stay in the water for varying periods of time. The areas of standing water are seined to see if the larvae are present. Minnow traps can also be used to capture larval salamanders. Adult salamanders are found under logs, rocks and other debris. Most of NDOR's wetland mitigation sites have never been surveyed for salamanders. A University of Nebraska at Omaha graduate student working on his thesis will be surveying a number of NDOR's wetland mitigation sites this spring. Maybe the elusive Eastern Tiger Salamander is present at one or more of our wetland sites. To use a scientific term that would be "cool."

Our Top Twenty

NDOR employees with the most *total state service*
as of January 2009.

Name	Office	Service Date
1. Voss, Ernest W.	Lincoln (HQ)	3-22-54
2. Regelean, Irene G.	Lincoln (HQ)	5-28-54
3. Sharp, Daniel J.	Lincoln (HQ)	6-10-57
4. Shafer, Larry G.	Lincoln (HQ)	9-07-57
5. Pavel, Leland D.	Lincoln (HQ)	9-09-57
6. Smets, William N.	Lexington (D-6)	4-01-58
7. Engel, Barbara K.	Lincoln (HQ)	4-28-58
8. Ronnau, Dalyce F.	Lincoln (HQ)	6-09-58
9. Lentz, Freddie D.	Omaha (D-2)	7-28-58
10. Veverka, Frank	Fremont (D-2)	10-1-58
11. Freemon, Lyman D.	Lincoln (HQ)	10-12-58
12. Kuper, Marjorie A.	Lincoln (HQ)	3-1-59
13. Nutt, Jon W.	Maywood (D-7)	6-10-59
14. Francis, Forrest L.	Albion (D-3)	10-22-59
15. Prochazka, Douglas J.	Lincoln (HQ)	7-11-60
16. Schulz, Ronald D.	Norfolk (D-3)	9-1-60
17. Foreman, Robert R.	Lincoln (HQ)	10-1-60
18. McAndrew, Raymond D.	Omaha (D-2)	11-19-60
19. Bouwens, Harvey J.	Lincoln (HQ)	1-27-61
20. Jobman, Larry D.	Lincoln (HQ)	5-12-61

was appointed Deputy United States Surveyor. In 1897, he was an Assistant Engineer-Fieldwork (civil engineer) in Kearney for the State Board of Irrigation. In 1898, he accepted a new job as an Assistant Engineer with the State Board of Irrigation. Mr. Channel commuted between Lincoln and Kearney to help his brother on their celery farm. In 1900, he was appointed Deputy County Clerk of Buffalo County. Later that year, he was appointed Chief Engineer and Secretary of the State Board of Irrigation, and served from April 1900

to April 1901 under Nebraska Governors William A. Poynter and Charles H. Dietrich. Why he left is not known. Maybe in part it was economics/political and/or the lure of fortunes out west in Utah and Idaho. In 1902, he set up a lumberyard business in boomtown Twin Falls, Idaho, and in 1905 married a Salt Lake City widow, Celestine M. (Duguet) Good, who had two children from a previous marriage. They continued to live in Twin Falls and in 1912, a daughter, Dorothy M. Channel, was born. In 1924, after selling the lumber

business, Mr. Channel and his family moved to San Diego, California, where he ran an automobile business with his stepson. In 1931, he retired and in 1949, he died and was buried in the family plot in Salt Lake City.

In January, Clarence Benton Channel's photo joined the other 25 directors on NDOR's second floor wall. The next time you are passing by the second floor photo gallery, pause and reflect on Mr. Channel's contributions as State Engineer, and Arvid Olson's efforts that found a missing piece of NDOR's history. ♦



Reading (cont'd. from page 2)

"Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America"

by Thomas L. Friedman, 2008, 438 pages.

The author builds on his previous books, including "The Lexus and the Olive Tree" (1999) and the "World is Flat" (2005). He asserts that in the year 2000 we entered into an Energy-Climate Era where growing populations, exhaustion of world resources (to include oil), global warming and dramatic expansion of the world's middle-class has created a world in economic crisis. A sobering read replete with descriptions of the risks and the opportunities for the United States to lead the world in this new era. The best of Friedman's books. A *must* read that may portend much of our nation's and the world's future.

"Lincoln's Virtues"

by William Lee Miller, 2002, 515 pages.

This is an excellent read and removes the ivory statue veneer with which we sometimes view Abraham Lincoln. As the author notes, Lincoln was not born with his face on Mount Rushmore and was an actual human being. A self-educated man, Lincoln was from the rural west (Illinois at the time), a politician, and he was a leader in forming the Republican Party. However, he meticulously prepared in both his political and legal professions. He also consistently had an interest in expanding public works, especially roads, railroads and inland waterways. His attributes of natural sympathy, compassion, high ethical standards and cultivated respect with others served him well.

In the years leading up to his election as president, he focused almost exclusively on the elimination of the moral wrong of slavery. He viewed slavery as undermining the very soul of the United States. His clear thinking, non-partisanship, sense of justice, moral responsibility and stubborn focus on the "big picture" saw him become not only a great man, but a good one. He never lost sight that it is all about people as stated in the Declaration of Independence. This man's leadership preserved the Union. Before he was president, reference was made to the "United States *are*." Following his presidency, reference was made to the "United States *is*."

"The Ten Commandments for Business Failure"

by Donald R. Keough, 2008, 190 pages.

This is a very easily read book, complete with real-life, easily understood examples of how businesses can fail, or, conversely, succeed. The author (former President of Coca-Cola) has roots in Omaha and grew up as a boy in the same neighborhood as Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger. A simple reading of the chapter titles reflect how to fail: quit taking risks, be inflexible, isolate yourself, assure infallibility, play the game close to the foul line, don't take time to think, put all your faith in experts and outside consultants, love your bureaucracy, send mixed messages, be afraid of the future and lose your passion for work—for life. A simple book about how to keep things simple in a complex world and that there are no "silver bullets. A great read!

CPR—Are You Prepared?



By Carol Marshall, RN

According to American Heart Association (AHA) more than 166,000 people—almost 450 a day—die of sudden cardiac arrest. Only about a third of them get cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from a bystander—something that could

double or even triple their chances of surviving. More important to know is that 75 percent of all cardiac arrests happen in people's homes and the typical victim of cardiac arrest is a man in his early 60's and a woman in her late 60's. How many members of your household are CPR trained and willing to perform CPR if or when the need arises?

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency medical procedure for a victim of cardiac arrest or, in some circumstances, respiratory arrest. Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double a victim's chance of survival by helping to maintain vital blood flow for the heart and brain and increasing the amount of time that an electric shock from an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can be effective. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved. If you have

never been CPR trained or it has been more than five years since you were trained, now is the time to enroll in a CPR class.

Many changes have taken place in CPR training, including education in using an AED. Another important change is that in the past, mouth-to-mouth ventilation was combined with chest compressions based on the assumption that active ventilation was necessary to keep circulating oxygenated blood. The combination was accepted without comparing its effectiveness with chest compressions alone. However, research over the past decade has shown that assumption to be in error, resulting in the AHA's acknowledgment of the effectiveness of chest compressions alone. Consequently, CPR training for the lay person has changed and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should not be the deterrent to providing CPR. Training is much easier than in the past.

I hope that you will never need to use your CPR training, but you must know the importance of being prepared. A NDOR employee recently told me that he was at a public function and a lady went into cardiac arrest. Approximately eight people were close by and he was the only person that could perform CPR. One in eight prepared to do CPR is not an acceptable ratio. Encourage your family and friends to be trained (or retrained) in CPR so you can save a life or they may save yours. CPR may be the best thing you could do for a loved one! Check available training in your area today.

Holiday Door Decorating Contest Highlights Creativity

Twenty-four doors at NDOR's central headquarters were decked out in holiday splendor, awaiting the judges' final decision: Which one would take first place bragging rights in the second annual holiday door decorating contest?

Each door-decorating group had captured the essence of the holidays in their own unique way, which made the decision a difficult one for the two judges, who also help run the NDOR cafeteria. The winning divisions were:

- 1st Place: Rail & Public Transportation: *The Christmas Story*
- 2nd Place: Human Resources: *Dora the Explorer*
- 3rd Place: Construction: *Mr. & Mrs. Claus Eating Cookies*

Photos of all the entries may be viewed at My Network Places at \\Dorimage1\COMDIV\DecoratedDoors.

Participants, judges and spectators all agreed the contest was a big success in sprucing up the hallways for visitors to NDOR during the holidays and building rapport within the department. Congratulations to the winners and to all who participated in the door decorating contest.

NDOR Events Calendar

— February —

- 5 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 11 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887
- 16 State Holiday – Presidents' Day**
- 15-21 National Engineers Week**
www.eweek.org
- 18 New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact DeWayne Morrow @ 476-3678
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 20 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conference Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 25 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887
- 27 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

— March —

- 2-4 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Workshop: March 2, 9:00 a.m. – March 4, 2:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Kearney, Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 5 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580
- 10 New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact DeWayne Morrow @ 476-3678
- 11 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887
- 12 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528

- 17-19 Project Managers' Conference**
Ramada Inn, Kearney
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 25 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887
- 27 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

— April —

- 3 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Examination 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 6-10 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 7 New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact DeWayne Morrow @ 476-3678
- 8 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887
- 16 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 18-25 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
- 22 Earth Day**
- 24 State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 22 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Linda Wilson @ 479-3887

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the April/May Roadrunner should be received by March 16.